

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-08 OPIC-03 DOE-11 SOE-02

L-03 AID-05 H-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 TRSE-00

OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /077 W

-----023368 180647Z /10

R 171015Z MAR 78

FM AMCONSUL DOUALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1705

AMEMBASSY BNNGUI

INFO AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE POUCH

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E.O. 11252: NA

TAGS: EINV, CT, CF

SUBJ: TEXACO/MOBIL COMPENSATION CLAIMS AND MOBIL ASSISTANCE

TO CAE DURING DRY SEASON

(A) 77 BANGUI 2736 (NOTAL), (B) BANGUI 526 (NOTAL)

1. BOTH TEXACO DIRECTOR-GENERAL PETER WEBSTER AND MOBIL DIRECTOR FRANCOIS YDIER CONFIRMED THAT CENTRA HYDRO DIRECTOR-GENERAL NGOMA CAME TO DOUALA SHORTLY AFTER YDIER'S MOST RECENT TRIP TO BANGUI. DURING THEIR MEETINGS IN DOUALA THEY BROACHED POSSIBILITY OF TEXACO, MOBIL AND SHELL REPS.

COMING TO BANGUI FOR WHAT IS TERMED A DECISIVE STAGE OF THE COMPENSATION NEGOTIATIONS; THE BANGUI MEETING IS TO TAKE PLACE AROUND THE 12TH OR 13TH OF APRIL.

2. FYI, WEBSTER IS PLANNING A PRELIMINARY TRIP TO BANGUI, ARRIVING FROM NDJAMENA ON MARCH 29 AND LEAVING FOR DOUALA ON MARCH 31.

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3. YDIER REGRETTED THAT HE SIMPLY DID NOT HAVE TIME TO DROP BY THE EMBASSY DURING HIS WHIRLWIND VISIT ON MARCH 1 AND SAID THAT HE WILL CERTAINLY DO SO IF HE HAS THE CHANCE NEXT TIME. HE WAS WELL RECEIVED BY NGOMA AND SPENT QUITE A BIT OF TIME WITH HIM. HE WAS ALSO WARMLY GREETED BY A NUMBER OF CAE MINISTERS WHO HAPPENED TO BE AT THE AIRPORT WHEN YDIER ARRIVED. YDIER IS CURRENTLY BASKING IN THE GOOD GRACES OF THE CAE

GOVERNMENT BECAUSE OF THEIR DEEP APPRECIATION OF MOBIL'S EFFORTS IN DIVERTING PETROLEUM SUPPLIES FROM GAROUA, CAMEROON TO THE CAE FOR THE EMPEROR'S CORONATION. REFTEL B, PARA 4).

4. YDIER HAS INDEED BEEN ASKED TO TRUCK POL TO BANGUI DURING THE DRY SEASON (REFTEL B, PARA 4), AN OPERATION WHICH WILL INCREASE THE PRICE OF GASOLINE IN BANGUI BY CFA 20 PER LITER. IRAQUI CRUDE ORDERED BY CAE, REFINED IN FRANCE AND NORMALLY SHIPPED TO POINTE NOIRE BY TANKER WILL BE DIVERTED THIS DRY SEASON TO MOBIL'S DOUALA STORAGE FACILITIES TO REPLENISH THE POL YDIER WILL BE TRUCKING TO BANGUI.

5. IN COMPARISON TO WHAT YDIER DESCRIBED AS THE SMOOTH-RUNNING, PROFESSIONAL, AND LEAN CAE CENTRA HYDRO OPERATION, HYDRA CONGO IN BRAZZAVILLE IS A MESS. WHILE CAE HAS 300 EMPLOYEES ON THE PAYROLL, CONGO HAS OVER 900. WHILE CAE INSISTS ON CASH BEFORE DELIVERY AND IS THUS SOLVENT, CONGO HAS SUCH FINANCIAL TROUBLES THAT THERE IS NO MONEY TO PAY SALARIES. DURING YDIER'S VISIT TO BRAZZAVILLE MARCH 1-4, HE VISITED MAINLY WITH THE BANKERS BECAUSE EVERYONE IN HYDRA CONGO'S BLOATED BUREAUCRACY WAS TOO WORRIED ABOUT GETTING PAID FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY TO BE BOTHERED WITH COMPENSATION CLAIMS IN GENERAL, YDIER FEELS THAT THE ECONOMIC PICTURE WAS MUCH BRIGHTER IN CAE AND IS WORRIED ABOUT THE FUTURE STABILITY OF CONGO.

6. POST WILL REPORT ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMPENSATION, PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, NEGOTIATIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DOUALA00174
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780120-0589
Format: TEL
From: DOUALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780356/aaaabvbx.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5e9b17c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3295159
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TEXACO/MOBIL COMPENSATION CLAIMS AND MOBIL ASSISTANCE TO CAE DURING DRY SEASON (A) 77 BANGUI 2736 (NOTAL), (B) BANGUI 526 (NOTAL)
TAGS: EINV, CT, CF, MOBIL, TEXACO
To: STATE BANGUI
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5e9b17c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014